

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.M:26/16/1

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

☐ historic The Ross/Powell House
☐ other 22 Martin's Lane

2. Location

☐ street and number 22 Martin's Lane ☐ not for publication
☐ city, town Rockville ☐ vicinity
☐ county Montgomery

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

☐ name Warren G. and Brenda Crutchfield
☐ street and number 20 Martin's Lane ☐ telephone
☐ city, town Rockville ☐ state MD ☐ zip code 20850

4. Location of Legal Description

☐ courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Judicial Center ☐ liber 20709 ☐ folio 419
☐ city, town Rockville ☐ tax map GR33 ☐ tax parcel N650 ☐ tax ID # 00154250

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☒ Other: City of Rockville, Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource	Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
2

7. Description

Inventory No. M:26/10/77

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This two and one half story part log and timber frame vernacular house with a balloon frame section is set well back from Martin's Lane. The original siting of the house built in the 1850s is not clear. At one time, it probably faced east to North Washington Street. In 2002, the house is accessed from Martin's lane via an alley driveway that leads to the former rear of the house and a garage. The north façade is presented to Martin's Lane and is the only view of the house from the public way. Composition asphalt shingles cover the cross-gabled roof of the 4-bay by 2-bay rectangular core. This complex house is clad with wood tongue and groove German siding. It rests on a fieldstone foundation and brick piers.



East Façade facing toward North Washington Street.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Name The Ross/ Powell House: 22 Martin's Lane
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The north facade has a two-story low-hipped shed-roofed protruding bay that occupies the majority of the façade. The bay has two equally spaced 2/2 windows on each story and is nearly as wide as the house. Its four windows are 2 over 2 double hung wood sashes, as are many throughout this house. Above the bay is a small diamond attic light, positioned just below the ridge of the gable end.



Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Name The Ross/ Powell House: 22 Martin's Lane
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 2

The rear entrance is located at the northwest half of the 4-bay west façade. An adjacent lean-to addition shelters the entryway. The one window to the north and the two above on the second level are evenly positioned but not of the same size, resulting in a rustic appearance.



From the southwest half of the west facade, a square tin-roofed lean-to projects from the first level. On the gable-ended second floor above are two windows and a square four-paned attic light.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Name The Ross/ Powell House: 22 Martin's Lane
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 3



The south facade has a 1-bay deep first floor addition; here three windows are flanked by a door at each end. A one story gable-roofed kitchen is situated near the southwest corner of the house. Originally a free-standing building, it is joined to the house via both the west facade lean-to and the south side addition. This kitchen, with its small interior chimney and weather board siding, retains much of its original character.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

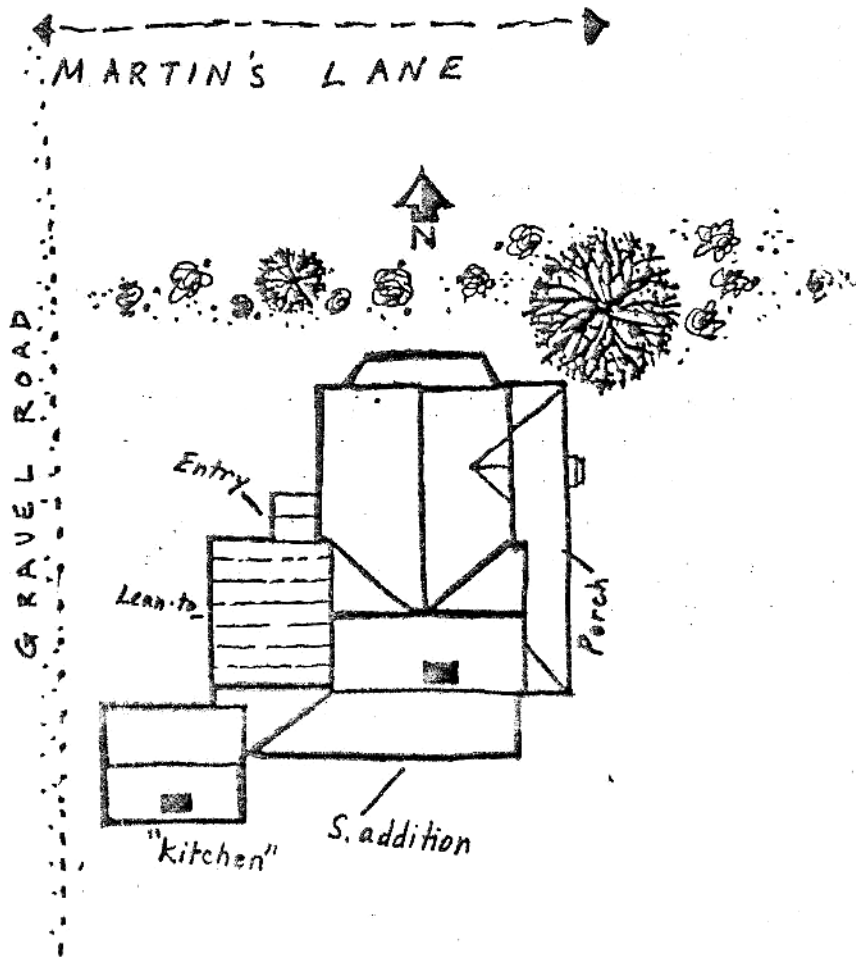
Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Name The Ross/ Powell House: 22 Martin's Lane
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 4

The southeast gabled block has three second floor windows and a square attic light. The northeast block has a smaller decorative attic gable with a diamond light, and two unmatched second floor windows. A hipped roof, one-story frame and screened porch spans the east facade; it has an off-center screen door.

This house reflects the rural character once found in this locale.



Plan of 22 Martin's Lane – Glen Leiner

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Name The Ross/ Powell House: 22 Martin's Lane
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 5



22 Martin's Lane view of kitchen and west façade from alley driveway behind house
Photo by Cindy Kebba 10/02

8. Significance

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Local History</u>

Specific dates	mid-19 th Century	Architect/Builder
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Construction dates	mid-19 th Century
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Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Significance

The history of Alfred Ross and his wife, Jane Carroll, and their house at 22 Martin's Lane, and the property they left to their heirs incorporates five generations of free African-Americans in this Rockville community called Haiti. The significance of a large number of free blacks in Rockville between 1830 and 1865 has gone largely unrecognized, although their presence had a major impact on the cultural and physical appearance of the town.

The existing house incorporates the original log and timber structure, which can be seen in the attic framing.

History and Support

As early as 1825 Samuel Martin, a free black, owned one of the original lots of Rockville and in 1831 owned an additional five acres just past the northern limits of town.¹ The latter served as a nucleus around which a Negro enclave developed. Free black farm laborers and house servants built their homes-around "Martin's Lane", as did former slaves and servants from the Beall-Dawson house, this road being the dividing line between Margaret Beall's property and Samuel Martin's.

The subject house dates from the mid-19th century and is representative of the tenant house which evolved through 100 years of ownership by descendants of the former slave family. The census of 1850 recorded 1,300 free blacks in Montgomery County, comprising 8% of the population. Although there were 51 black landowners in 1860,² most of the free blacks lived in the white households as

¹ Samuel Martin was listed in the 1790 Census as heading a household of 4 free non-whites.

² James M. Wright, The Free Black in Maryland – 1634-1860. New York Octagon Books 91971) Reprint of 1921 Edition, quoted in Richard K. MacMaster and Ray Hiebert, A Grateful Remembrance, Montgomery County Historical Society (1976) Chapter 9.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Name : The Ross/Powell House: 22 Martin's Lane
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

servants or in tenant houses, or quarters provided for the laborers. This area of Rockville's black households was called "Haiti" (pronounced Hay-Tie).

Most of the households were composed of women and children; some were the descendants of Samuel Martin (d. 1837) and some were the children of Samuel Martin, Jr. (d. 1873). Since the State of Maryland did not recognize slave marriages, it is difficult to determine before Emancipation which of the numerous Martin, Powell, Warren, and Johnson men were the husbands in these households. One clue appears in the Catholic Church records of Baptisms, marriages ("with consent of both masters") and burials. Many of the Haiti blacks were descendants of the freed slaves of the Carroll family, the pre-eminent Catholic family in the State.³

Jane Carroll Ross and her husband Alfred were the first black owners of 22 Martin's Lane. In 1861 the Catholic Church records show that "Alfred Ross and Jane Carroll, his wife" arranged for the Baptism of their four children ranging in age from 6 years to a few weeks. The children were all baptized on one day with "Mrs. West" as their sponsor.⁴

Neither Alfred Ross nor Jane Carroll appears on either the 1850 or 1860 Census as free. The inventory of Jane Beall's estate in 1852 lists a male slave named Alfred, and since the deed for the house from Margaret Beall to Alfred Ross in 1871 states that he was already occupying the house, it is probable that at least Alfred was a Beall slave.

The deed for the house made in June, 1871 and recorded in August, 1872, recited that Margaret J. Beall sold to Alfred Ross "(col'd)" for \$5.00. "The use and occupation of the house and lot lying near the Town of Rockville, and now occupied by him for the benefit of himself, his wife and children."⁵ After Alfred's death the house would pass to Jane and then to his children and heirs, but Ms. Beall inserted a clause retaining "supervision and control over the management of the house and lot...". The supervision and control clause was not removed until 1893 when she joined Jane Ross to pass the land to Jane and Alfred's children.

Alfred Ross' estate in 1893 consisted of the home on almost one-half acre and three adjoining lots of over 7,000 square feet each, bounding 288 feet on Martin's Lane to the sassafras tree.⁶ Lot #1 with

³ One descendant was Kitty Carroll, listed as a 39-year-old mulatto in the 1850 census; She owned an ambulance, hearse and two Ford autos in Rockville on the 1917 Tax Assessments of that year.

⁴ The Children were" Henry Ross b. 1861, Flora Ross b. 1856, Margaret Ross b. 1858 and Delia Ross b. 1855. Marie Eliza Ross, the eventual owner of the house after Alfred's death was born in 1863 and baptized in 1864.

⁵ Montgomery County land Records EBP 9/477 (1872).

⁶ Alfred Ross had purchased additional lots from Isaiah Hatton and William Hatton. This land was part of the Beall land the Hattons had received in 1884 and 1886. Isaiah was a free mulatto, age 15 in the 1860 census.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Name : The Ross/Powell House: 22 Martin's Lane

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

the house went to Maria Eliza Ross, the only unmarried daughter, who made a home for her mother and then kept the property until her own death in 1925.⁷ In 1927 by Decree of Equity #4635 the house was advertised for sale and described as follows:

"On the west side of the Rockville-Frederick Road ... about 300 yards from the road ... improved by a five room dwelling house, with meat house, chicken house and fruit trees...adjoins the lands of Flora (Ross) Powell."⁸

The Trustees sold the house to Flora Powell, widow of Adam Powell and daughter of Alfred and Jane. Flora paid \$2,025.00.

The house was from time to time enlarged and modernized, but stayed in the close-knit families of Haiti. In 1966 Gertrude and Chester McKnight devised it to their granddaughter and great-granddaughter in trust.⁹ It was sold to Warren and Brenda Crutchfield in 1981.¹⁰

Joann Crutchfield was interviewed by the Sentinel newspaper in 1978 and spoke of the house where she was born (22 Martin's Lane), as belonging to her great-grandmother.¹¹ Her own home next door at 20 Martin's Lane was her grandmother's. The families of Martin Lane, like the Crutchfields, are descended from the Martin, Carroll and Ross families. They speak of the Haiti Cemetery, where their ancestors are buried, and of church and community activities. In the 1960's these families successfully challenged City plans to change the name of Martin's Lane.

⁷ Maria married after the deed was made. She married Edward S. Scott.

⁸ The Montgomery County Advocate newspaper advertised the sale to be held on December 18, 1926.

⁹ Land Records, Liber 3570, folio 381 (1966).

¹⁰ Land Records, Liber 5733, folio 881 (1981)

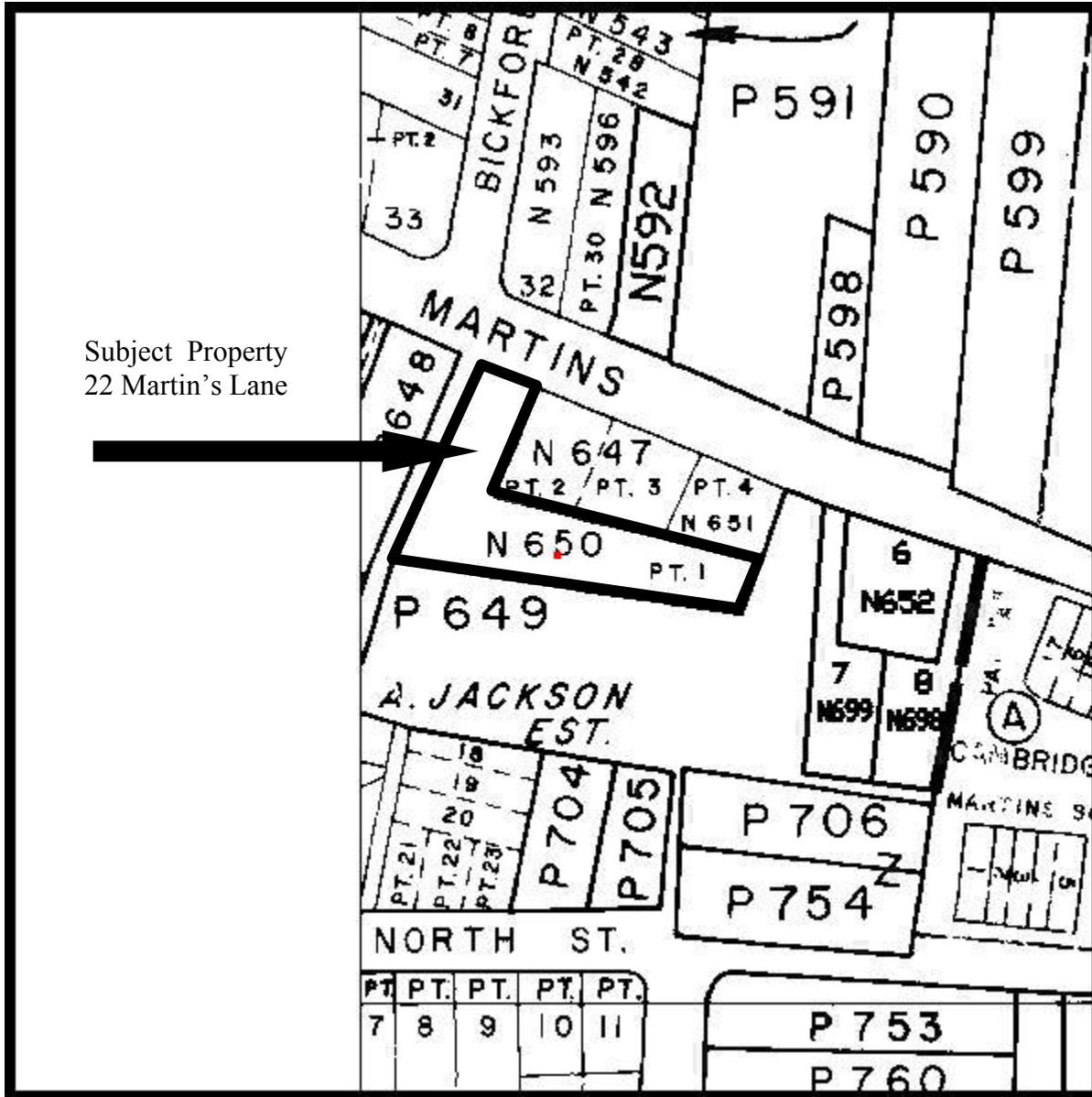
¹¹ Montgomery County Sentinel, June 1, 1978 and February 15, 1979 – articles on "Haiti" and interviews with William Wood and Joann Crutchfield.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Name : The Ross/Powell House: 22 Martin's Lane
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3



9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Montgomery County Land, Tax, Will, and Plat Records. Census Records: 1850, 1860; Former Slave Census 1867-8; Records of Catholic Church; 19th C. slaves/free blacks; Newspapers; Montgomery County wills of Jane Beall, Samuel Martin, S. Martin Jr. and Honore Martin.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 23,530 square feet or .540 acre

Acreage of historical setting same

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale:

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map GR33 N650 A. Ross Estate

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Anne Cissel, Historian	Glen Leiner, Architectural Description	
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	September 1984
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	301-762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state MD	20849-4262

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 DHCD/DHCP
 100 Community Place
 Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
 410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. M:26/16/1

Name: The Ross/Powell House: 22 martin's Lane
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1
